

# Senators Would Punish Officers Ansell Accuses

## Borah Asks Their Names, as "We May Possibly Have to Deal With Them"

# Sentences Are Mitigated

## Reports of Courts Martial Fail to Tell Some Amazing Cases, Knox Declares

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Broad intimations were given on the floor of the Senate to-day that the officers of courts martial responsible for the imposition of "harsh, cruel and inhuman sentences" for minor infractions of military rules will be called to account as a result of the investigation being conducted by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.

This question also came up for discussion in the House during the debate on the army appropriation bill. The House approved the \$500,000 appropriation in the bill for court martial expenses. Attacks were made by several members on special distinction between officers and enlisted men when off duty. Republican Leader Mann urged that the next Military Affairs Committee of the House take steps to remedy the court martial system. The House accepted an amendment by Representative Ligon, of Missouri, providing for review by the Secretary of War of all cases where applications of soldiers for discharge have been refused.

During the first discussion in Congress of the testimony given yesterday by Brigadier General Samuel T. Ansell, acting Judge Advocate General of the army, there was an insistent demand to-day for the names of the officers accused by General Ansell of the imposition of unjust sentences.

When assurances were given that the names of the convicted soldiers would be given to the Senate committee in confidence, Senator Borah, of Idaho, said:

"I hope the committee will ask for the names of those officers of the court martial who imposed the penalties complained of."

Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio, said:

"I want to indulge the hope that the names of the officers of the court martial will be disclosed from the service."

# Reports Not Exaggerated

The discussion came up when Senator Borah asked the members of the Military Affairs Committee whether the reports in to-day's papers were correct. Senator Knox assured Senator Borah that the accounts were not exaggerated, but, on the contrary, had not presented some of the most amazing cases brought to the attention of the committee.

General Ansell, said Senator Frelinghuysen, "appeared before the committee recommending wide powers of review for the judge advocate general's office and made some statements to the committee regarding a number of cases where he believed grave injustice had been done, and that owing to the system it was impossible for the judge advocate general to review, review or mitigate the sentences."

"The committee asked for the names of the soldiers who had been convicted, and it was decided by the committee that their names should be furnished to the committee, but they should be given to the chairman of the committee."

# Names of Officers Can Be Had

"The names of the officers of the court martial who imposed the penalties were not asked. I will say to the Senator from Idaho that undoubtedly if that information is desired it can be obtained from General Ansell, who is the acting Judge Advocate General."

"I want to know," said Senator Borah, "the names of these men who imposed these unreasonable judgments against the delinquents, so that we may know who they are. We may possibly have reason to deal with them."

"I think," said Mr. Chamberlain, "that when the Senator from Idaho reads the very able discussion of the legal side, the legal phases of the cases of war, will be interested in General Ansell's testimony."

"In the last analysis one of the very great difficulties is a difference between the lawyers as to the construction of a certain provision of the law. General Ansell and those who agree with him insist that the judge advocate general's department has power to revise and review the proceedings of the courts martial, while others in the same branch of the service still hold that the law does not give that power."

# Twenty Years for One Boy

"I have now in my possession," said Senator Borah, "information which I am sure to me to be of great value in the War Department who examined the records and who knows whereof he speaks such as this: 'A boy was ordered to peel potatoes, when he declined to do, and he was sent to the penitentiary for twenty years by courts martial.'"

"The man who assessed that punishment is a dangerous member of society. He would commit murder if the place were secret enough so that the miserable coward would not be interested in his deed. It is that man that I want to reach."

"I should like to call the attention of the Senator from Oregon," said Senator Knox, "to the fact that I do not regard the difference of opinion between General Ansell and General Crowder as to the appellate jurisdiction or the right to revise by the judge advocate general's office as at all involved in this matter."

General Crowder's construction of the law did not procure these excessive and barbarous sentences, which were imposed upon our men in France after the battle of the Marne. The whole question is whether these excessive sentences can be reviewed. The fact is that they were reviewed, and in all of the very extreme cases the sentences were very much reduced."

# General Ansell Appears before the Committee Again to-morrow

Also discussed in House

Discussing the court martial exposure, Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, said in the House:

"After reading the testimony with regard to the harsh and cruel sentences imposed upon our men in France, I am ashamed to see that some of those of our kind who have no regard for the flesh and blood of the sons of America, I would go so far as to imagine that they would keep you up to this situation, so that we may say to human brutes, those who are parading in the uniforms

# Gun That Shelled Paris Is Demanded by Allies

COBLENZ, Feb. 14. (By The Associated Press).—The Allies have taken steps to gain possession of one of the long-range guns which the Germans used to fire upon Paris. The Inter-Allied Commission at Spa has made demands upon the German Delivering Commission that a long-range gun be included in the war material which the Germans are turning over to the Allies.

All the German officers whom the American officials have questioned regarding the long-range guns have asserted that all the crews who were assigned to the task of handling the "Big Berthas" were sworn to secrecy, and ever since the armistice was signed little has been known regarding the fate of these monster weapons.

Recent reports were to the effect that one of the "Big Berthas" had been dismantled in West Prussia, while another report from a discharged soldier said that a long-range cannon had been seen on railway cars near Essen.

of the United States, that we shall take them by the neck even as they have taken the soldier citizens of the United States by the neck. The gentleman," interposed Chairman Dent.

"And if need be," continued Mr. Moore, "incarcerate them or give them the same kind of treatment they have been dealing out to these helpless men, these true, courageous young Americans whose mouths have been kept shut because of military restrictions."

"I do not say that this spirit of brutality, this arbitrary authority, prevails throughout the army of the United States. That would be unfair and unjust, but I do say that when I voted the bill into the service of the United States through the conscription bill I did not vote him into voluntary slavery, where he would be so controlled by the fellow who happened to be temporarily in command. I voted him into the service for his flag and for his country, where I expected the man in control to respect the sentiments and conditions of the United States and to give that boy a fighting chance."

# Baker Declares He Is Anxious to Humanize Military Justice

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—"No member of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs is more anxious to modernize and humanize military justice than I am," Secretary of War Baker said to-day, commenting on the revelations made by Acting Judge Advocate General Ansell before the committee yesterday.

Secretary Baker said he would appear before the Senate committee following the completion of the testimony of General Crowder and Ansell, and would at that time give the committee his views of the matter of military justice.

General Ansell's declaration before the Senate committee that "injustice" had been done numerous men tried by military courts was widely discussed in military circles to-day. Army officials generally agreed that extreme penalties had been the rule rather than the exception since the entrance of the United States in the war, but some expressed the severity of the punishment on the ground that wartime sentences necessarily had to be extreme.

Officers of the line, however, asserted that the charges of injustice were directed against officers in his own branch of the service, inasmuch as the camp judge advocate has the authority to approve or disapprove the findings of the courts martial. It also was pointed out that before any sentence can be executed each case comes to Washington for review, and that finally the President himself must confirm or reject the sentence.

# Marshall Checks Senate Debate on Recall of Troops

## Vice-President's Vote Breaks Tie and Blocks Action in Johnson's Fight to Bring Home Army From Russia

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—With the vote of Vice-President Marshall breaking a tie, the Senate late to-day defeated a motion by Senator Johnson, of California, Republican, to proceed with consideration of his resolution proposing an expression by the Senate favoring withdrawal of the American troops from Russia as soon as practicable.

This was the second successive day that the California Senator had failed in his effort to bring the resolution to a vote. He announced he would continue his fight, probably by introducing a new measure.

Senator Johnson interrupted consideration of the Rivers and Harbors Bill with a motion to supplant that measure and proceed with consideration of his resolution. There was only a bare majority of 50 to 49 in support of the resolution and denunciation of the Bolshevik regime in Russia.

The sending of an adequate force of American troops into Russia to put an end to the rule of Lenin and Trotsky was urged by Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, Republican.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, said reports received from Russia indicated that the people of all classes were suspicious of the Allies' intentions.

After the Rivers and Harbors measure, moved to table the motion by Senator Johnson, and the vote was 53 to 33. Voting for the first time in many weeks, the Vice-President cast his vote in the affirmative.

# Pay of Enlisted Men May Be Reduced to \$15 After July 1

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Pay of enlisted men in the army may be reduced to \$15 a month after July 1, as the result of the elimination in the House to-day, on a point of order, of a provision in the annual army appropriation bill continuing the present salary of \$20 a month.

The point of order was made by Representative Stafford, of Wisconsin, Republican, who insisted that this was new legislation and as such could not be incorporated in an appropriation bill.

# Breshkovsky Asks for Army To Save Russia

## "Grandmother" Tells Senate Committee 50,000 Men Would Be Adequate

# Lenine Worse Than Czar

## Aged Revolutionist Fears Germany and Japan Will Join to Crush Her People

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—"Babushka" Breshkovsky stood for an hour and a half before the Overman Senate Committee and in broken English appealed for aid for Russia and denounced as criminals and traitors to Russia the Soviet rulers.

"Russia is destroyed," she told them. "We are naked, I am ashamed. We are mendicants now, we must ask for everything. We have nothing. I confess and I assert that the Bolsheviks have destroyed Russia, destroyed and divided it. Russia will have to fight for herself and to suffer for many years unless we are helped. And we are not guilty—our people are not guilty."

As word spread about the Capitol that the "Grandmother of the Russian Revolution," the woman who had spent thirty-two years in prison and in exile for her fight against the Czar, who had been a revolutionist in the days when revolution meant sacrifice and not loot, was speaking, the great hearing room became filled. The friends of the Bolsheviks, who with their books, have been so conspicuous at the hearings, sat glumly and found little to write down.

# Czar Better Than Soviets

The white-haired woman of many sorrows spoke for an hour almost without interruption, and then replied to questions from the members of the committee until it became evident that her strength was failing, and they stopped reluctantly, with many questions unasked. The Senators had heard there had been a kind of conspiracy to keep her opinion of the Bolsheviks from reaching the American people.

"Who treated the people best," Major Hughes asked her, "the Czar or the Soviet?"

"Under the Czar," she said, "many people needed almost everything, but they could work, and they had food, and many gained comforts. To-day they need everything. They have no food, and they cannot even work."

"Do you believe Lenin and Trotsky are tools of Germany?" inquired Senator Nelson.

"I do not believe it," she declared, and there was a moment's blank pause. "I know it," she almost shouted.

"Is the Bolshevik government a menace to Russia?" the Senator persisted.

"It is not. It has already destroyed us. We are on the verge of it," she had to turn to a friend for her word "A precipice of utter annihilation."

# Freedom Already Destroyed

"Will Bolshevism destroy freedom?" "It has already done so. Already we have no liberty, no press, no right to speak, no universities, no schools. Without help Russia will perish utterly. But it will struggle and shed its blood for many years."

"Are these men worse than the Czar?"

"I served thirty-two years in prison and in exile to save Russia from the Czar, but I would serve thirty-two years more to get him back if this is to go on instead. Certainly we prefer a Czar to a Trotsky. We cannot endure to struggle thirty years without peace. And if we do suffer so it will be the fault of our allies that they do not help us."

Senator Sterling asked about the withdrawal of Allied troops. She quoted her answers. The British and French had helped establish a dictatorship at Omsk, she said. Russia did not want that, nor the Japanese. She feared an alliance between Japan and Germany, in which Russia would be crushed.

"The continuance of Bolshevism will certainly lead to the domination of Russia by Germany," she said, "by Germany and Japan. Those two neighbors will come and make of Russia their colonies. Both have already begun."

50,000 Americans Enough

It did not require great armies to save Russia, she insisted. If the Allies, especially, if America would send 50,000 men—"men who will fight and not stay in one place," she specified—and arm them, the Russian revolution would be done. But a million men would arouse distrust. Fifteen thousand at the right time would have prevented Bolshevism.

The news Russians were greatly offended by the plan for a conference on Princes' Islands, she said. "We will never sit at a table with those traitors," she declared, her voice trembling. "It is nothing to the nations. Socialists, if all her people are shot or hanged, starved, so long as they can rule. They have corrupted our army, corrupted our workers, corrupted our peasants—only they want that in every place there should be a Soviet of criminals."

Killed More Than Germans

Senator Sterling asked whether she could say how many people had been killed under the Soviets.

"It is said that the war against Germany killed only half as many people as have been killed in Russia by the Soviets," she replied. "Only half—all the men in all the countries that have died fighting Germany! And Russia has lost twice that many men and women. And the provinces about Russia are thronged with refugees."

As soon as Kerensky was overthrown, we saw all our hopes dashed and made our prayers to our Allies. Everything was overturned and we had, instead of one Czar, two, Lenin and Trotsky. They will destroy everything, nothing will be left to us but to go back to a Czar again, and there will remain a legend against freedom—unless we are helped."

"And after that, Breshkovsky had in Petrograd a mighty ruler—mighty than Lenin and Trotsky. He was General Mirbach, the German. They did his bidding. He ordered them to arm the prisoners and disarm the men—and they did it. Then, after all our shops and factories were destroyed, and all our banks seized, and all we had was given to the Germans, we could not resist. They and the Bolsheviks had all the rifles."

# Hundred Battle Fronts

"When the Germans came and began all their atrocities and disorders, Lenin said we would have a crusade against the Germans. But soon he said that

# \$36,000,000,000 Stolen In One Bolshevik Train

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—An indication of the vast loot which the Bolsheviks got in Russia was given before the Overman committee by Roger Smith, a National City Bank employee in Petrograd. There was no general estimate possible, he said, but a single train, taking the loot from the state bank to Nijni-Novgorod for safety, was valued, according to "inside" reports, at 72,000,000,000 rubles—\$36,000,000,000—or more than the entire cost of the war to America to date.

# Simons Inaccurate About Bolsheviks, Say New Yorkers

## Trotsky Not Fair Representative of East Side; Lenin, Russian Prince, Real Leader, Says Sack

Radical and conservative Jewry in this city joined voices yesterday in protest against the charges of the Rev. George A. Simons, formerly head of the Methodist Episcopal mission to Russia. Testifying before the Overman committee now investigating revolutionary propaganda, Dr. Simons, on Wednesday, gave it as his opinion that the Russian revolution could never have taken the Bolshevik twist it has but for the influence and support of New York's lower East Side.

"Inaccurate, unreliable, unfair," were the words Louis Marshall applied to the clergyman's testimony. "Contemptible," was the adjective Rabbi Joseph Silverman used. At the Rand School of Social Science Dr. Simons's point of view was spoken of as "un-American."

"To attempt to identify the Bolshevik movement with the Jewish race is simply preposterous," said Felix M. Warburg. "In the first place, most people who use the word to-day haven't the slightest idea what 'Bolshevism' is. In the loose application they give to it it is made to cover all forms of social unrest. But social unrest is very far from being confined to the Jewish race."

Hases and Have-Nots

"The question is an economic one—and it is very, very old. It is the perennial problem of the haves and the have-nots. Undoubtedly there are many Jews among the have-nots. There are also many others—many more others. I might believe it," she declared, and there was a moment's blank pause. "I know it," she almost shouted.

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# President Accepts Sharp Resignation As Envoy to Paris

## Vance McCormick Likely to Succeed Him Is View at Washington; Wilson Praises the Ambassador

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There was no information in official circles to-night as to whom the President had in mind for the Paris post, but at the time the resignation of Vance McCormick as chairman of the Democratic National Committee was made known last month it was said that Mr. McCormick would become Ambassador to France.

Mr. McCormick is in Paris, having been summoned there by the President more than a month ago in connection with the peace conference. When he left Washington he told friends he expected this work would occupy him for several months, at least.

Mr. Sharp's letter to the President was under date of December 19 and revealed that he had first asked to be relieved immediately after the signing of the armistice, his resignation to become effective before the start of 1918. This request was more formally renewed in the letter of December 19 and brought a reply from the President dated December 21, accepting the resignation and asking that Mr. Sharp remain at Paris until his successor could qualify. This Mr. Sharp has agreed to do.

The President's letter accepting the resignation follows:

"In view of what you have so fully explained to me with regard to the circumstances which make you feel it your duty to resign, and your present post and give your close personal attention to business affairs which depend upon you, I cannot in conscience refuse to accept your resignation as Ambassador of the United States to the government of France, and I do so with the understanding that the resignation is to take effect when your successor qualifies."

"I am sincerely obliged to you that you are willing to make this arrangement and to remain in France until your successor actually can take your place. It is an arrangement which relieves me of a good deal of anxiety, because I should have been highly impatient post at Paris to be vacant for even a short time."

"Let me tell you again how highly I have valued the unusual services which you have rendered our government. They have at every turn of the critical events of recent years been of the highest value, and it has been a source of confidence and of strength to feel that we had such a representative here. I am expressing not only my personal feeling, but the feeling of all those who have been familiar with your service here. You are certainly entitled to your release, and I assure you that you carry with you the affectionate regard and confidence of those who have had the pleasure of being your collaborators in our government."

# Denial by Mr. Williams

## Controller Says President Cooper Had Access to Report of Hearing

The following communication has been received by The Tribune from John Skelton Williams, Controller of the Currency:

"To the Editor of The Tribune:

"Sir: On the front page of The Tribune of yesterday, in what purports to be a report of the proceedings of an 'executive session' of the Banking and Currency Committee of the Senate called to consider the question of the President's removal, myself as Controller of the Currency, you say: 'Haled before the Controller of the Currency, John Skelton Williams, Wade H. Cooper, some banking officer of the Washington Savings Bank, was denied by the Controller permission to see the stenographic transcript of the proceedings.'"

"That statement is wholly untrue and without foundation. Of course against the banking laws by the bank official referred to were brought up at a hearing before the Controller of the Currency on October 29, 1918, when that banking official's complaints against a bank examiner were heard. The stenographic report of that hearing showed clearly that the banking official was informed that he would be given the opportunity of inspecting the stenographic report when it would be written out, and that his attorneys would also be given the opportunity of doing so. On December 16, 1918, the bank official called at the Treasury and was given access to the report, spent about three hours in reading it."

"The report has been available for his further inspection at the Treasury during the business hours of each day. Therefore, as your report was wholly untrue and unjust to me, I ask that you give a proper correction as much promptly as you have given to your incorrect statement."

"JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS, Washington, D. C., Feb. 14."

# Huge Cotton Fire Loss

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 14.—Fire which started to-day in the terminals of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company had destroyed virtually the entire adjoining plant of the Southern Fertilizer and Chemical Company at a late hour. The flames still were raging as the ship of the Seaboard terminals, where thousands of bales of cotton were stored.

Railroad officials said the cotton on the docks alone was worth between four and five million dollars.

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